IN THE CLAIMS:

This following is a complete listing of the claims in the application and replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows.

1-75. **(Cancelled)**.

76. **(Currently Amended)** An umbrella apparatus comprising:

a pole portion;

an umbrella portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion, the umbrella portion having a plurality of radially extending rib members;

a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system coupled to the pole portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system;

a lighting system having a plurality of light emitting diodes conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, the light emitting diodes being recessed within the rib members; and

translucent materials disposed over the light emitting diodes for enhancing the light from the light emitting diodes.

77. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the translucent materials are smooth.

78. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the translucent materials are textured.

79. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the translucent materials extend beyond the exterior surfaces of the rib members.

80. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, further comprising:

conductors carried within the rib members for conductively coupling the light emitting diodes to the rechargeable electrical power system.

81. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the solar energy system is releasably coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system.

82. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, further comprising:

a top cap for hingedly connecting the umbrella portion to the pole portion;

wherein the rechargeable electrical power system is releasably coupled to the top cap.

83. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the solar energy system and the rechargeable electrical power system are disposed in separate housings.

84. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 76, wherein the rechargeable electrical power system comprises:

at least one rechargeable battery disposed in a housing that surrounds the pole portion.

85. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 84, further comprising:

a power system charger conductively coupled to the at least one rechargeable battery;

a detachable transformer for converting AC electrical power to DC electrical power, the transformer being releasably coupled to the power system charger, thereby allowing the power system charger to use AC power to recharge the at least one rechargeable battery when the transformer is conductively coupled to the power system charger.

86. **(Currently Amended)** An umbrella apparatus comprising:

a pole portion;

a top cap coupled to the pole portion;

a plurality of rib members hingedly coupled to the top cap;

a flexible canopy carried by the rib members;

at least one rechargeable battery for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus, the at least one rechargeable battery being located below the flexible canopy;

a solar energy system adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the at least one rechargeable battery, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the at least one rechargeable battery, the solar energy system being releasably coupled to the top cap, such that the flexible canopy passes between the top cap and the solar energy system, the flexible canopy being adjacent to both the top cap and the solar energy system; and

a lighting system carried by the rib members, the lighting system having a plurality of light emitting diodes conductively coupled to the at least one rechargeable battery.

87. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 86, further comprising:

wiring passing through an interior portion of the pole portion for conductively coupling the light emitting diodes to the at least one rechargeable battery.

88. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 86, wherein the solar energy system is releasably coupled to the top cap via a threaded connection.

89. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 86, wherein the light emitting diodes are located in recessed channels in the rib members.

90. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 86, further comprising:

a wireless receiver and transmitter pair for generating a wireless command signal for changing the operating state of the lighting system.

91. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 90, wherein the wireless commend signal switches the lighting system on and off.

92. **(Previously Presented)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 90, wherein the wireless commend signal switches the lighting system between varying levels of light output.